

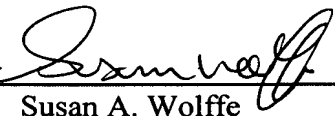
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this amendment, the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Claims 1-24 are pending. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.**

Date: September 24, 2004

By   
Susan A. Wolffe  
Registration No. 33,568

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.  
Customer Number: 22907

SAW/sdm